United Nations CRC/SP/SR.16

# Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

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## Tenth Meeting

**Summary record of the 16th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 23 February 2005, at 10 a.m.

*Temporary Chairperson*: Mr. Mokhibir (Representative of the Secretary-General)
*Chairperson*: Mr. Drobnjak ..... (Croatia)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.*

**Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

1. **The Temporary Chairperson**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, said that since the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child there had been no additional ratifications to the Convention. The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict had been signed by 117 States and ratified or acceded to by 94 States, and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had been signed by 111 States and ratified or acceded to by 93 States.

2. The near-universal ratification of the Convention and the growing global recognition of the importance of the rights of the child had contributed to an increasingly heavy workload for the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In an effort to address that issue, the General Assembly had approved the Committee's request to work in two chambers during 2006, with a view to reducing the backlog of reports of States Parties.

3. Since the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention the Committee had held six sessions, during which it had considered 54 reports of States Parties. It had also held two days of general discussion in 2003 and 2004 on the rights of indigenous children and on implementing child rights in early childhood, respectively, and had adopted three new General Comments, on HIV/AIDS, adolescent health, and the general measures of implementation for the Convention.

4. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund, had organized two subregional workshops in Damascus in 2003 and in Bangkok in 2004, to follow up on the Committee's recommendations, and the Committee had worked with other treaty bodies on streamlining the reporting process and on their respective working methods. In that regard the Committee had held informal discussions with States Parties, organized a number of working meetings with various partners, including specialized agencies and special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights, and met with non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and youth groups.

**Election of the Chairperson**

5. **Mr. Wenaweser** (Liechtenstein), Vice-Chairperson, nominated Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia) for the office of Chairperson of the Meeting.

6. *Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia) was elected Chairperson of the Meeting by acclamation.*

**Adoption of the agenda**

7. *The agenda was adopted.*

8. **The Chairperson** drew attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure, contained in document CRC/SP/5, and said that he had been informed that the Secretary-General had yet to receive proper credentials from a number of the States Parties represented at the Meeting. He urged those States Parties to submit the credentials of their representatives to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and suggested that, in accordance with rule 3, the representatives of those States Parties should be entitled provisionally to participate in the Meeting.

9. *It was so decided.*

**Election of other officers of the Meeting**

10. *Ms. Espindola (Ecuador), Ms. Hoch (Liechtenstein), Mr. Wigwe (Nigeria) and Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar) were elected Vice-Chairpersons.*

**Election, in accordance with article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, of nine members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 28 February 2005** (CRC/SP/35 and Add.1-3 and Corr.1-3)

11. **The Chairperson** recalled that article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been amended on 18 November 2002 to expand the Committee's membership from 10 to 18 members. In accordance with article 43 as amended, nine Committee members were to be elected for a term of four years by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States Parties. That list was contained in document CRC/SP/35 and Add.1-3. The nominations of candidates from Italy, Madagascar, Pakistan and the

Syrian Arab Republic had been withdrawn by the nominating States Parties.

12. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms. Asani-Ndelemani (Malawi), Ms. Ramirez (Paraguay) and Ms. Brazier (United Kingdom) acted as tellers.*

13. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

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| *Number of ballot papers:* | 184 |
| *Number of valid ballots:* | 184 |
| *Number of members voting:* | 184 |
| *Required majority:* | 93 |
| *Number of votes obtained:* | |
| Ms. Al-Thani (Qatar) | 136 |
| Ms. Smith (Norway) | 134 |
| Mr. Siddiqui (Bangladesh) | 133 |
| Mr. Zermatten (Switzerland) | 111 |
| Ms. Lee (Republic of Korea) | 110 |
| Ms. Aluoch (Kenya) | 106 |
| Mr. Parfitt (Canada) | 102 |
| Ms. Vučković-Šahović (Serbia and Montenegro) | 100 |
| Mr. Pollar (Uganda) | 87 |
| Mr. Al-Sheddi (Saudi Arabia) | 84 |
| Ms. Sardenberg (Brazil) | 80 |
| Ms. Aidoo (Ghana) | 74 |
| Mr. Koompraphant (Thailand) | 62 |
| Mr. Levin (Estonia) | 59 |
| Ms. Al-Jaifi (Yemen) | 57 |
| Mr. Rabah (Lebanon) | 54 |
| Mr. Jaros (Poland) | 45 |
| Ms. Kayitesi Zainabo (Rwanda) | 36 |
| Ms. Kimane (Lesotho) | 34 |

14. *Having obtained the required majority, Ms. Al-Thani (Qatar), Ms. Aluoch (Kenya), Ms. Lee (Republic of Korea), Mr. Parfitt (Canada), Mr. Siddiqui (Bangladesh), Ms. Smith (Norway), Ms. Vučković-Šahović (Serbia and Montenegro) and Mr. Zermatten (Switzerland) were elected members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.*

15. **The Chairperson** said that, since only eight candidates had obtained the required majority, a second ballot, restricted to the two candidates who had obtained the next largest number of votes, would be held to fill the remaining vacancy on the Committee, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure.

16. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

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|---|---|
| *Number of ballot papers:* | 187 |
| *Number of invalid ballots:* | 1 |
| *Number of valid ballots:* | 186 |
| *Number of abstentions:* | 1 |
| *Number of members voting:* | 185 |
| *Required majority:* | 93 |
| *Number of votes obtained:* | |
| Mr. Pollar (Uganda) | 110 |
| Mr. Al-Sheddi (Saudi Arabia) | 75 |

17. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Pollar (Uganda) was elected a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.*

**Closure of the Meeting**

18. **The Chairperson** declared the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child closed.

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*